

CRETE, IL - After working to secure \$1.2 billion in federal funds for high-speed rail in Illinois, which was announced by the Obama administration on Thursday, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson toured the rail corridor with Senator Dick Durbin and Governor Pat Quinn on Friday. Halvorson, whose 11th Congressional District includes much of the rail line as well as stops in Joliet and Bloomington-Normal, has backed a Chicago to St. Louis high-speed rail line since the inclusion of \$8 billion in funds for high-speed rail in the stimulus that passed early last year. Halvorson sees the line's development as a way to improve transportation infrastructure and get people to work.

Halvorson spoke at stops at Union Station in Chicago in the morning and Normal's Amtrak Station in the afternoon. Last year, she secured \$250,000 in federal funding for Normal's mutli-modal transportation center, which will be a stop along the Chicago to St. Louis high-speed rail corridor.

"The jobs and increased transportation options that will result from high-speed rail funding is truly extraordinary, and this funding is so necessary at a time when our economy is still struggling," said Halvorson. "I'm looking forward to these funds putting many of my constituents to work as soon as possible."

HALVORSON CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECURING HIGH-SPEED RAIL

- In late August Halvorson held a meeting in Joliet to build local support for high speed rail, bringing together the Midwest High Speed Rail Association, IDOT and local and state elected officials to lend support to Illinois' high speed rail application
- She repeated this event in Bloomington in September, getting local stakeholders on board
- She led a letter of House members to increase funding in the conference report for the FY10 T-HUD Appropriations bill for high speed rail in October, to make sure there will be continued federal funding support for high speed rail after the stimulus funds are awarded

- She also joined her colleagues in the Illinois Congressional delegation in urging Sec. LaHood this January to select the Chicago to St. Louis route for funding

- She recently secured \$250,000 for Normal's multimodal station which will help accommodate high speed rail service, and she's working with Joliet to facilitate the development of its multimodal station to accommodate Metra and high speed rail service.